



# The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi  
[www.stalbansbovina.org](http://www.stalbansbovina.org)

**December 2021**



Farewell to the Lauritzen Family

## The Lauritzen Family Relocates to Albuquerque



Gracious God, thank you for sending this family to St. Alban's for a season. Thank you for letting us watch these beautiful children grow up. Thank you for sending us Shane and Reagan to help lead this church for this season of their lives. We send them out to New Mexico filled with our love and our support, knowing that they will always be part of the St. Alban's family. We ask you to bless them in their move, bless them in their new life, bless these kids as they start new schools, bless them with good friends and family out in New Mexico and help them to know that they always have a home here with us at St. Alban's. May your blessing be upon them now and in all the years to come. *Amen.*





ECWH Hosts the Farewell Reception



Annual Advent Wreath Making



## Mental Health First Aid

A group of eleven participants were trained in Mental Health First Aid at St. Alban's on Saturday, November 20. The training was led by Jeanine Hanks and Alisha Jones-Creel of Warren Yazoo Behavioral Health, who shared their wisdom and expertise, but most especially their hope that recovery is possible. Participants learned signs and symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse disorders for the purpose of being able to recognize when someone might not be doing well. They also learned how to intervene, using a first aid action plan involving assessing for risk, listening nonjudgmentally, giving reassurance and information, and encouraging appropriate professional and self-help.

Congratulations to all those who completed the training! Thank you for your commitment to caring for everyone in our community and for your commitment to the healing and wholeness that we are called to in our life in Christ.



## Living Nativity Scheduled for December 18



We are bringing back a St. Alban's tradition—the Living Nativity! Under the direction of Clarissa Horner, St. Alban's will host a Living Nativity on Saturday, December 18 from 5:30-7:00 pm. We will need LOTS of volunteers to pull off this fun event! Please consider volunteering in any of the following ways:

- Children & adults are needed to dress up as angels, shepherds, magi, and the holy family
- Setting up: we need help setting up the “stable” and other sets and ensuring they are well lit; we'll also need help lighting luminaries in the cemetery
- Greeters: we'll need people to welcome visitors and direct traffic
- Food & drink: would you consider bringing a pot of soup or making a carafe of hot chocolate to keep our volunteers warm?

Look for sign-up sheets in the weekly email and at the church. Please contact Clarissa Horner for any questions. And please invite your friends and neighbors!

## Plans for St. Alban's Outreach

It's the Christmas season. We are excited to partner with *Lifting Lives Ministries* to provide gifts and a tree for the homeless families at the Shelter. Last year we were able to provide all the requested items, including: bikes, baby-dolls, toy cars, superhero toys and tablets for the teens. We also gave each family a laundry basket full of needed items: detergent, soap, towels, wash cloths, masks, toilet paper, paper towels, wipes, and Kleenex.

This year we are excited to have more congregation involvement. The congregation will be able to help buy gifts, wrap gifts and hand them out. Please keep your eye out in the announcements and weekly newsletter for more details. I am so grateful that we will be able to provide a little joy to these families.

In addition, St. Alban's through the Outreach Mission has provided:

- \$2,500 direct support to *Lifting Lives* and significant in-kind donations of food and school supplies
- \$1,000 to Rainbow Farms
- \$600 to PAWS (plus in-kind donations of pet food)
- \$500 to Jacob's Ladder
- Food donations to Storehouse Food Pantry
- School supplies to Bovina Elementary.



Last Year's Gift Bags for *Lifting Lives Ministries*

---

## Blessings

Gracious Father, you have always been beside me.  
Your love and mercy never let me forget whose I am.  
Even with all the bumps along the way,  
I have felt Your presence, with the rising and setting of each day.  
No matter how small or great my mistakes have been,  
You have never cast me aside or rejected me.  
Throughout my life, when times seemed more than I could bear,  
Your grace has helped see through whatever storm has arisen.  
Our strength always persevered when mine has failed me,  
And though at times, I felt weak and ineffective,  
I knew I could go on because you are always strong.  
I believed Your angels could keep me upright.  
In this season, as we celebrate the birth of Your Son,  
Loneliness seems to seep through the pores at times,  
Longing for those I love who are no longer with me.  
But the joy of Your Word, now appearing in flesh brightens me.  
The knowledge that You loved me so much, brings me hope.  
Your love for all of us sinners leads me to thankfulness.  
It reminds me that You told us angels would be in our midst.  
I believe, Father, and I always know that there is something good in everything.  
Because You have given me this gift of a loving heart,  
I can get through whatever this earthly life places in my way -  
The stumbling blocks that attempt to make me falter.  
You, Lord, are stronger than any barricades that man creates.  
Thank you for all these gifts, life, kindness and faith,  
And mostly, thank You for giving Your Son to save us all.  
Help me to never forget the angels who watch over me,  
And let me always remember that Jesus shows me the way to eternal life with You.

*Dawn Rickard*

## Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

How do we make decisions as Christians? Decisions about where to work or live? Decisions about our family life? Or even communal decisions, such as who to nominate for church leadership on the Vestry? We often throw around the word “discernment” when it comes to these kinds of decisions. But what do we mean by discernment? The long, multi-year process of figuring out whether I was called to Holy Orders or to other kinds of ministry was called a “discernment process.” There were lots of conversations, lots of time for reflection, and even more prayer. But discernment happens in other contexts as well, and is the framework I believe we should use for many of the decisions we face in our corporate life as a church.

I've been thinking about discernment ever since our Nominating Committee met to discern new leadership for the Vestry. What was it that marked this time as a time of discernment rather than merely a committee engaged in decision making? Here's what I would suggest are some of the hallmarks of discernment:

- Discernment is a process rooted in prayer, as we seek God's will.
- Discernment is led by the Holy Spirit and asks us to give up our individual agendas as we consider the common good and God's mission.
- In discernment, there is plenty of room for silence, and no need to rush to a decision.
- We may be surprised by the outcome, which is often different than anyone could have predicted going into the process.

For me, I know the Holy Spirit has been at work when I come out of the process with a completely different outcome than I ever could have expected going in. This was true of our Nominating Committee meeting, but also true of longer discernment processes I've been through, like my own call to Holy Orders. Discernment asks us to open ourselves up to God's will. One beautiful definition from Ruth Haley Barton is that discernment is “an ever increasing capacity to ‘see’ the work of God in the midst of the human situation, so that we can align ourselves with whatever God is doing” (quoted in Susan Beaumont's, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*).

Advent is the perfect time to reflect on how God is acting in our world, and how we might attune our lives to God's work. After all, Advent is not just about God's first coming into the world in the Christ child, but about God's continuous engagement and presence with us. May we prepare our hearts to discern God with us.

# ADVENT AT ST. ALBAN'S



close to  
HOME

Advent 1  
Nov. 28



**Make advent wreaths**  
*(after each service)*

Advent 2  
Dec. 5



**Visit from St. Nicholas**  
*(after the 11:00 service)*

Advent 3  
Dec. 12



**Decorate gingerbread houses**  
*(after each service)*

Advent 4  
Dec. 19



**Greening the church**  
*(after the 11:00 service)*

*Services each Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 am*

A quiet, meditative service for those experiencing grief  
or any kind of loss this holiday season.  
All are welcome.

## Longest Night

*A service of light in the midst of darkness*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22  
6:00 PM

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 WARRIORS TRAIL, BOVINA

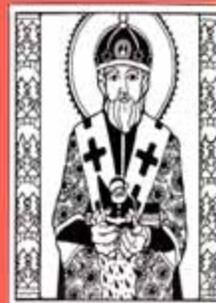
## St. Nicholas is Visiting!



Sunday, Dec. 5



after the 11:00 am Service



Meet St. Nicholas &  
hear his story!

Holiday crafts for  
all ages!



Bring donations of socks, hats, gloves, & scarves  
in honor of St. Nicholas, who loved giving to others!

*Let heaven & nature sing!*

.....

*Join St. Alban's for  
Christmas & Epiphany*



**Friday, Dec. 24, Christmas  
Services at 6:30 and 10:30 pm**

Music starts 15 minutes before each service; both services include Eucharist; the 10:30 pm service will have incense.

.....

**Sunday, Dec. 26, 10:00 am  
Festival of Lessons & Carols**

ONE Service on this First Sunday of Christmas. Come hear the stories of our salvation interspersed with favorite Christmas carols.

.....

**Wednesday, Jan. 5, 6:00 pm  
Eve of the Epiphany with  
Burning of the Greens**

Bring your Christmas tree or other greenery to burn, or just come watch the bonfire! Brief prayers followed by a reminder of the light of Christ spreading through the world.

## December Birthdays

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Harvey Smith, Jr.       | 22 Jennifer Normand     |
| 4 Ella Ann Selby          | 26 John Bonar           |
| 7 William Horner          | 28 Sara Margaret Porter |
| 9 Mary John Biedenharn    | 29 Buddy Hanks          |
| 11 Clarissa Walker Horner | Ann Jones               |
| 12 Joan Leese             |                         |

## December Anniversaries

- |                           |                                  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 John & Anita Bonar      | 23 Allen & Linda Kitchens        |
| 14 Jerry & Kay McWilliams | 29 Rudolph & Allison Price Nieto |
| 16 Jimmy & Ann Jones      | David & Mary Ann Wright          |

## Prayers for the People

- |                 |                  |                |              |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Allan & Joan    | Charlene H.      | Irv            | Norma        |
| Amanda          | Charlene P.      | Jackson        | Pat          |
| Ann & Jimmy     | Charlie & Family | Jacob          | Patty        |
| Ashleigh        | Cynthia          | Jeff & Darlene | Phil & Sally |
| Ashley          | Dan & Mary       | Jeff           | Ramona       |
| Barbara         | David            | John & Lynn    | Ria          |
| Ben             | Diane            | Kelley         | Ricky        |
| Betty           | Earline & L.J.   | Loretta        | Ruth         |
| Bill & Karen    | Estella          | Mack           | Sharon       |
| Bob             | Gary             | Marcia         | Steve        |
| Bryan & Jessica | Glenda           | Mike B.        | Theresa      |
| Camden          | Isabel, MK & Ted | Mike & Family  | Willie       |
|                 |                  | Nanette        |              |



## Weekly Events

### Sunday

**Holy Eucharist Rite I**, 8:30 am  
**Holy Eucharist Rite II**, 11:00 am\*  
**Sunday School**, 9:30 am

### Monday — Wednesday—Friday

**Morning Prayer**, 8:00 am\*

### Tuesday

**Bibles & More**, Social time starts at 6:00 pm Group from 6:30-8:00 pm

### Wednesday

**Spiritual 12 Steps Group**, 7:30-8:30 am  
**Holy Eucharist Rite II with Prayers for Healing**, 6:00 pm.\*

### Thursday

**Ultreya**, 12:00-1:00 pm

\* Indicates: Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

## Event Calendar

**Sunday, December 5—The Feast of St. Nicolas**, 11:00 am We are expecting a visit from St. Nicholas after the 11:00 am service. Learn about this bishop and friend of children.

**Saturday, December 18—Living Nativity**, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, December 22—The Longest Night**, meditative service, 6:00 pm  
 Quiet contemplative service for anyone experiencing grief, loss or for whom the holidays are difficult.

**Friday, December 24—Christmas Services**, 6:30 pm & 10:30 pm\*

Both services will include music and Eucharist; there will be incense at the 10:30 pm service.

**Wednesday, January 5—Eve of Epiphany** with Burning of the Greens, 6:00 pm

**Sunday, January 9—Bishop's Visitation**, 10:00 am (talk to Rev. Elisabeth if you're interested baptism, confirmation, or reception into the church)

**Sunday, February 6—Annual Parish Meeting**, following ONE service at 10:00 am\*

\* Indicates: Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

## Server Schedule

Date	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
<b>Wednesday</b> 12/1/2021	6:00 PM Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
<b>Sunday</b> 12/5/2021	8:30 AM Ann Tompkins 11:00 AM Harvey Smith	Penny Freund Sharon Hanks	Jim Price The Cooper Boys	Ann Tompkins	Jim Drake
<b>Wednesday</b> 12/8/2021	6:00 PM Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
<b>Sunday</b> 12/12/2021	8:30 AM Tommy Skinner 11:00 AM Betsy Selby	Sharon Cummins Kerri Williams	Jim Price Kerri Williams Peter Williams	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper
<b>Wednesday</b> 12/15/2021	6:00 PM David Pruett				Harvey Smith
<b>Sunday</b> 12/19/2021	8:30 AM Harvey Smith 11:00 AM Richard Price	Tommy Skinner Ed Shelnut	Jim Price Ann Tompkins Dawn Rickard	Ed Shelnut	Jim Drake
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>Longest Night</b> 12/22/2021	6:00 PM Betsy Selby				Harvey Smith
<b>Friday</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 12/24/2021	6:30 PM Theo Williams 10:30 PM Harvey Smith				Buck Cooper N/A
<b>Sunday</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 12/26/2021	10:00 AM Harvey Smith				Jim Drake
<b>Wednesday</b> 12/29/2021	6:00 PM Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:  
Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake, Dawn Rickard